REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 4-5 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1-3, 6-7, 16, and 18-20 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-3, 6-16, and 18-20 are pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims to overcome these rejections and respectfully request that they be withdrawn. Support for the amendments may be found in Paragraphs 39-41 of the application as originally filed.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-6 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Li et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20040174825). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following arguments.

This application relates to a way to control the dissemination of routing information in a communication network. Link state routing protocols such as IS-IS or OSPF allow network elements to exchange link state information by transmitting link state advertisements. Link state advertisements are typically flooded on the network. However, it is important to limit the distance a LSA is flooded on the network. Typically, this was done by imposing boundaries on the network and allowing LSAs to only flood within the bounded area.

As described in paragraph 39 of the specification as originally filed, applicants proposed two ways to limit the dissemination of link state advertisements. One way to do this was to use a distance traveled indicator that is incremented/decremented at each hop. Another way was to have each node look at the information contained within the link state advertisement to determine how far the link state advertisement has traveled on the network. Using the information in the link state advertisement allows metrics such as cost to be used to determine whether the link state information is relevant. Once the node determines the relevance of the link state information, the node may selectively forward the link state advertisement on the

network based on the relevance of the information to the node or likely relevance of the information to other neighboring nodes. (see also specification at paragraphs 40-41).

Li teaches a way to limit flooding of link state advertisements by setting a local flag and setting a time to live field. (see Li at Paragraph 45). Li proposes to use the time to live field to limit flooding of the link state advertisements on the network. Li does not propose to have the nodes look at the link state information and make a forwarding decision based on the relevance of the link state information.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite that the method includes the steps of "determining, from the link state information, whether the link state advertisement should continue to propagate on the network based on whether the link state information contained in the link state advertisement is relevant; and selectively forwarding the link state advertisement on the network if the link state information is relevant." This amendment is supported in paragraphs 39-41. Li does not teach or suggest a method that includes these steps. Specifically, Li looks at the time to live field, and does not use the link state information contained in the link state advertisement to determine whether the link state advertisement should continue to propagate on the network. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 over Li be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 7-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatenable over Li in view of Kwaitkowski (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0120355). The Examiner cited Kwaitkowski as showing a plurality of OSPF routers.

Applicants have amended claim 7 to recite "a plurality of OSPF routers interconnected in a network and belonging to an OSPF area, said plurality of OSPF routers being configured to selectively forward Link State Advertisements (LSAs) within the OSPF area by evaluating link state information contained in the LSAs to determine the relevance of the link state information on the network, such that not every OSPF router within the OSPF area receives every LSA." Li does not teach or suggest selectively forwarding LSAs based on the relevance of the link state information contained in the LSA. Kwaitkowski similarly does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, claim 7 is believed patentable over the combination of Li and Kwaitkowski.

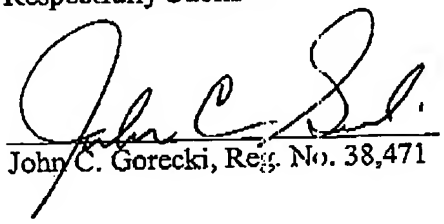
Claim 16 has been amended to recite that the network node includes control logic configured to inspect a link state advertisement received from a network, ascertain link state information from the link state advertisement, determine a relevance of the link state information, and selectively drop the link state advertisement if the link state information is not relevant. In view of this amendment, claim 16 is believed patentable over the combination of Li and Kwaitkowski.

Conclusion

In view of foregoing claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If any fees are due in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502246 (Ref: NN-16258).

Respectfully Submitted



John C. Gorecki, Reg. No. 38,471

Dated: June 4, 2008

Anderson Gorecki & Manaras LLP
P.O. Box 553
Carlisle, MA 01741
Tel: (978) 264-4001
Fax: (978) 264-9119